

TO ARREST PADRONES

Slave-Drivers to Be Prosecuted by Their Poor Victims.

Italian Societies Will Fight Until the System is Crushed.

Many Warrants Already Issued on Charges of Extortion.

To the Editor. The undersigned, Italian residents of this city, have read with feelings of gratitude the news of the crusade which you have undertaken against the Padrones. We send you many thanks for your desire to help the poor Italian people.

You are the only one who seems to take an interest in us and our afflictions. Many Italian laborers, who are slaves to the Padrone, who every day make money and grow rich on the earnings of the poor.

We hope that your crusade will prove victorious, and we join in blessing the stand which you have taken.

The above simple document was presented to "The Evening World" this morning. Attached to it were the signatures of over 500 Italians, nearly all of them laborers, victims of the slave-drivers. We send you many thanks for your desire to help the poor Italian people.

Italians have been here earlier this morning. Attached to it were the signatures of over 500 Italians, nearly all of them laborers, victims of the slave-drivers, who for years, with the help of city officials and contractors, have fattened on the earnings of the poor. What a story lies behind it all, calling such "bankers" and "contractors," living in luxury while the families of men who fill their coffers starve.

Held in the worst kind of servitude for years and robbed systematically, the Italian laborers, heretofore ignorant of their rights and duties, have awakened. With the aid of the Italian benevolent societies they are trying to crush the system which has made them worse than slaves. These must succeed.

Every honest man, no matter what his party or his creed, will join the laborer. The question is one which concerns all. Workingmen of all shades are particularly interested, and the Central Labor Union has recognized the fact.

At a meeting of the Union held yesterday the padrone system was spoken of. The subject was introduced by Delegate Winston, and that he had the sympathy of all the delegates present was evidenced by the cheers which greeted his utterances. He outlined some of the facts already told in "The Evening World," how the city paid \$150 per day for laborers to the padrones and how the latter only paid their unfortunate serfs 55 and 90 cents.

"The matter must be thoroughly investigated," said Delegate Winston, "and although we are not affiliated with the men the padrones enrage, we owe them a duty nevertheless, and we should do that and protect them." Next Sunday the Central Labor Union will handle the subject without gloves.

What can now be said of Streets Cleaning Commissioner Andrews, who for the past three days has been pleading ignorance of the true condition of affairs? In consequence of "The Evening World's" exposures, the Commis-

sioner wrote to Secretary Bandini of the Italian Societies, that he would not engage padrones, but would look to the Society direct for labor. Next day he apparently forgot his profession, because he hired padrones again.

Five hundred Italian laborers headed by Vincenzo Palumbo of 15 Mott street, a notary public, who is the present strongman has proved the friend of the laborer's natural Commissioner Andrew's house yesterday.

Some of the men had brought their wives and children along, and the Commissioner was asked to keep his promise and give them work. He was amazed and disgusted at the display. He did not want to be disturbed, but seeing no way out of the difficulty, he promised to meet them a few hours later, 6 o'clock, at a given point and put them to work.

The men, with shovel, pick and brooms, were at the appointed place, and after waiting a long time the Commissioner finally appeared. He looked at the sky overhead and said as the weather was clearing he did not think he would put any more men. He did not, and the crowd returned, half disheartened, to their starving families.

If Commissioner Andrews had arisen earlier in the morning and walked through Mulberry or Mott street, he would probably think twice before repeating such a performance.

The first stop having been cast in this batch and the padrone, the Italian societies intend pushing the fight up to the very door of the Legislature. The public is asked to support them.

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Prosecutions in fact have already started, and warrants are out for the arrest of more than one padrone. Not only are the societies going to sue for back money pledged to be paid, but criminal proceedings will be taken against any for extortion and robbery.

Delegates of the Italian Societies, partitioned into local units, have arrested or caused to be arrested Andrew Palumbo, whose arrest a warrant has been issued. The Palumbo said this morning that Palumbo had been arrested in New Jersey and held to await extradition papers.

Palumbo was a policeman and President of the Italian Democratic Club. For a long time he possessed great influence with the district leaders and with the heads of the city departments, and was a favorite of the politicians for the Italian laborers and had regular scale of prices for doing so. It is not believed that he got all the money.

There are many Italian laborers on the payroll of the Street Cleaning Department, most of whom are paid poorly by the padrone. From common laborers who had been appointed to steady places he received \$40 and \$50 others to whom he paid nothing. Some were appointed at all, and it is the latter who are particularly anxious to find him.

He was not satisfied with making \$40 or \$50 from each man appointed permanently. He also received his share of the hand-money from the "extra" men, who still hold their posts, and were filling friends on the pretense of paying the men whom he employed, so that they would not have to wait until the padrone paid them.

"We have nothing to do with Mrs. Green," said he. "The Trust Company, through which the mortgage was negotiated, and who were the latter who are particularly anxious to find him.

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